1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Coir	58.5	64.3	66.9	77.0	77.0
	Grand Total	**11893.1**	**12342.1**	**12533.1**	**14385.0**	**15532.0**

Export of Textile Goods

1512. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume of textile exports during the first nine months of the current financial year;

(b) whether it is a fact that new export target for textile goods has been set for the next fiscal year and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what short and long term measures are contemplated to boost exports from the country during the next year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The total exports of textile and clothing (including Jute, Coir and Handicrafts) have amounted to US$ 9582 million during the period April—December, 1999

(b) An indicative target of US$ 15532 million has been fixed for textile export during the year 2000-2001.

(c) The Government have been taking several steps from time to time to boost exports. Some of the important initiatives taken specifically in respect of the textile sector are as under:—

(1) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, which has been made operational from 1.4.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and Upgradation of this sector so that it become more competitive in international trade.

(2) The Export Entitlement (Quota) Policies have Manufacturer Exporter Entitlement and New Investors' Entitlement systems to encourage new investment in the textile sector and greater weightage in the investment in weaving and processing, besides making them TUF consistent.

(3) Reduction in the threshold limit of the Zero Duty Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme in respect of certain prescribed textile machinery to Rs. One crores.

(4) Liberalisation of exports of cotton yarn by Export Oriented Unit (EOU)/Export Promotion Zone (EPZ)/EPCG units.

(5) Zero Duty import of certain categories of trimmings and embellishments.

Modernisation of Textile Sector in NER

1513. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any National Action Plan for modernisation of textile sector in the NER;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what step are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Government of India, Ministry of Textiles has launched a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for Textile and Jute Industries of the country including NER, which is in operation since 1-4-1999 for a period of 5 years, i.e. upto 31.3.2004. There is no cap on funding under scheme. It is an open-ended scheme depending on the capacity of the industry to absorb funds in bankable and techno-economically feasible proposals. Loans under the scheme are extended by the nodal agencies/co-opted institutions to the identified segments of the industry for the projects in conformity with the scheme from their own resources. Government funding is limited to reimbursement of interest at 5% point on the interest charged by the lending agency on a project of technology upgradation in conformity with the scheme. Any viable textile unit, which is eligible as per the normal lending norms of the concerned financial institutions and fulfils the benchmark criteria of the scheme, can avail of the funds under the scheme.